

Related Change Request (CR) #: 3709

MLN Matters Number: MM3709

Related CR Release Date: February 11, 2005

Related CR Transmittal #: 474

Effective Date: July 1, 2005

Implementation Date: July 5, 2005

Coordination of Benefits Agreement (COBA) Detailed Error Report Notification Process

Note: This article was revised to contain Web addresses that conform to the new CMS web site and to show they are now MLN Matters articles. All other information remains the same.

Provider Types Affected

All physicians, providers, and suppliers billing Medicare Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) and carriers

Provider Action Needed

This instruction includes information contained in Change Request (CR) 3709 which directs Medicare Contractors (carriers, intermediaries, and Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carriers [DMERCs]) to issue special automated correspondence from their internal systems to physicians, providers, and suppliers informing them that claims that were expected to be crossed over to supplemental payers/insurers (as indicated on a previous Remittance Advice) were not crossed.

Background

Through the national COBA process, Medicare will automatically cross claims over to a supplemental payer/insurer that may pay after Medicare has made its payment decision on the claim. There may be situations (such as claim errors related to HIPPA) that prevent Medicare from crossing a claim over to the supplemental payer/insurer.

In those situations where Medicare is unable to cross the claim, CR 3709 directs Medicare Contractors to issue special automated correspondence to notify physicians, suppliers, and providers when claims previously selected for crossover by Medicare were subsequently unable to be crossed to the supplemental payer/insurer.

The correspondence sent to the physician, supplier, or provider will contain specific claim information, including the Internal Control Number (ICN)/Document Control Number (DCN), Health Insurance Claim (HIC) number, Medical Record Number (if the letter is from an intermediary and the claim was for Part A services), Patient Control Number (if present on the claim), beneficiary name, date of service, and the date the claim was processed. In addition, the letter will include the following message:

Disclaimer

MLN Matters articles are prepared as a service to the public and are not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. MLN Matters articles may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations, and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

"The above claim(s) was/were not crossed over to the patient's supplemental insurer due to claim data errors."

Upon receipt of such correspondence, the physician, supplier, or provider is advised that the claim is not being crossed automatically and the provider may take appropriate action to obtain payment from the supplemental payer/insurer.

Implementation

The implementation date for CR 3709 is July 5, 2005.

Additional Information

Complete details of the COBA Error Notification process are included in the official instruction issued to your carrier/DMERC/intermediary. That instruction may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R474CP.pdf> on the CMS web site.

If you have any questions, please contact your intermediary/carrier/DMERC at their toll-free number found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.pdf> on the CMS web site.

Disclaimer

MLN Matters articles are prepared as a service to the public and are not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. MLN Matters articles may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations, and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.